THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) The Kothari Commission on Education (1964-66) had recommended that educational expenditure should rise from 2.9% in 1965-66 to 6% in 1985-86. However, the allocation and expenditure on education has not so far reached this level due to competing priorities and resource constraint. Constant and continuous efforts are made to raise the allocation and expenditure on education subject to overall availability of resources.

Marine Satellite Information Service

†3433. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) when the Marine Satellite Information Services was set up;

(b) the objectives thereof; and

(c) the details of achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Marine Satellite Information Services (MARSIS) programme was set up by the Department of Ocean Development in June, 1990.

(b) The objectives of the MARSIS programme is to utilize remote sensing data derived from satellite for generation of a veriety of coastal and ocean data products and making them available to the potential users on an operational basis. These products include information on Sea Surface Temperature, Potential Fishing Zone and Coastal land use maps. These are helpful in the fields of fisheries, coastal zone management and climate research.

(c) The details of achievements made under the programme are:

(i) Technology was developed for retrieval of Sea Surface Temperature on a daily basis from the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean using Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Satellite. This is useful in climate research.

(ii) Generation of Potential Fishing Zone Information for the use by the fisherman community of the Coastal and Islands of the country and dissemination of these information twice a week for non-monsoon periods to 170 fish landing centres located along the coast of India through fax/

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

phone/telegram which reduces search time and fuel cost and increase Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE).

(iii) Generation of wet-land/land use maps on 1:50,000 scale for all maritime states of the country.

(iv) Development of preliminary coral reef maps at 1:50,000 scale for Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar,, Palk Bay, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(v) Development of Coastal Zone Information System (CZIS) for Tamil Nadu and Chilka lagoon for supporting coastal zone management activities.

(vi) Special campaigns for validation of Modular Opto-electronic Scanner (MOS) sensor of IRS P3 and Ocean Colour Monitor (OCM) and Multi-Scanning Microwave Rediometer (MSMR) of IRS-P4 using the state-of-the art technology buoys and equipment available on board ORV Sagar Kanya. Sagar Sampada and other research vessels.

Study on Harappan civilization

3434. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Institute of Ocean Technology discovered a pre-Harappan civilization off Gujarat Coast in the second week of January, 2002, which could be older than any settlement found anywhere in the world;

(b) if so, the details of the findings;

(c) whether the settlement is older than Summarian, Egyption and Harappan civilizations;

(d) whether the Ministry has sought help of foreign experts to follow-up research at the site; and

(e) what are the details of steps the Ministry is taking to preserve this antiquity?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai of the Department of Ocean Development (DOD), Government of India had during the course of under water surveys in the Gulf of Cambay,